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## Thermophilic anaerobic digestion – full scale operational data from Bekkelaget WWTP in Oslo, Norway

*Bjarne Paulsrud, Beata Szatkowska,* Aquateam AS Ola Toftdahl, Bekkelaget Vann AS



#### FACTS:

- 35-40% of all wastewater from Oslo is treated at Bekkelaget WWTP
- New plant put in operation in 2000
- Owned by the City of Oslo, operated by the private company Bekkelaget Water Inc. (BEVAS)
- Designed for 280.000 pe, existing load 290 000 pe
- Average daily flow ~139.000 m<sup>3</sup>/d =  $1.6 \text{ m}^3$ /sec
- Discharge requirements: P-removal > 90% N-removal > 70% (including overflow)
- Sludge production: ~5.900 tons DS/year
- Gas production: 3.700.000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/year



# Wastewater and sludge treatment processes

![](_page_3_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_4_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Sludge treatment

- Thickening reduces the content of water in sludge to reduce hydraulic load to the digesters and increase the hydraulic retention time (HRT)
  Primary sludge thickened in belt thickener with polymer to 5-6% of DS
  - Bio sludge thickened in thickening centrifuges with polymer to 5-6% of DS
- **Digestion** for stabilization and hygienisation of sludge, and biogas production
  - Two digesters, at 55° in 16 days fed in batches to ensure a minimum of two hours exposure time of every sludge particle
- **Dewatering** reduces the content of water in digested sludge to reduce transport costs
  - Dewatering in centrifuges with polymer to about 30% of DS

### Thickening

![](_page_5_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Anaerobic digestion

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![](_page_6_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Anaerobic digestion

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![](_page_7_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Dewatering

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![](_page_8_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Conclusions

- Bekkelaget WWTP in Oslo, currently treating wastewater from about 290 000pe and producing 5 900 tons DS/year of mixed primary-biological-chemical sludge, has more than 10 years of full scale experience with thermophilic (55°C) digestion.
- The thermophilic operation of anaerobic digesters accomplishes an efficient and reliable hygienisation of sewage sludge, provided a semi-batch feeding of the sludge.
- It significantly increases degradation of organic matter in sludge resulting in a reduction of the sludge amount for final disposal. A 60% reduction of volatile solids (VS) has been achieved on an average in the last two years.
  - It improves sludge dewaterability, with DS content of 30% in dewatered sludge and a polymer consumption of about 6kg/ton DS..
- During the process a higher production of biogas can be achieved, making the process more profitable.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATENTION!